

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07905 261138Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 PA-01 /044 W

-----068723 261146Z /41

R 261056Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: GREEK EDITOR'S REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER

1. JOHN KAPSIS, CHIEF EDITOR OF SENSATIONAL LEFTIST DAILY TA NEA OF CHRISTOS LAMBRAKIS' GROUP, CALLED ON ME YESTERDAY TO TELL ME ABOUT HIS FORTHCOMING WEEK-LONG VISIT TO U.S. IN EARLY OCTOBER TO SEE FRIENDS, INCLUDING, HE SAID, FORMER AMBASSADOR KUBISCH. POINT OF KAPSIS' CALL WAS TO REQUEST THAT I TRY TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW FOR HIM WITH PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE VISIT. HE SAID HE PROPOSED TO ASK A SERIES OF BROAD QUESTIONS, "MOSTLY SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE", WHICH WOULD GIVE PRESIDENT CARTER THE CHANCE TO CLARIFY HIS ADMINISTRATION'S THOUGHTS AND POLICY ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS CYPRUS, THE AEGEAN, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. KAPSIS SAID HE THOUGH PUBLICATION OF SUCH AN INTERVIEW IN HIS PAPER WOULD SERVE U.S. INTERESTS BY SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND WOULD, OF COURSE, BE A FEATHER IN HIS PAPER'S CAP IN THIS "PRE-ELECTORAL" PERIOD.

2. I TOLD KAPSIS I WOULD BE GLAD TO PASS HIS REQUEST ON TO WASHINGTON AND TRY TO HAVE AN ANSWER FOR HIM IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BUT THAT I WOULD NOT HOLD OUT TOO MUCH HOPE IN VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S ENORMOUSLY BUSY SCHEDULE.
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3. COMMENT: KAPSIS IS A TALENTED JOURNALIST AND A PROTEGE OF LAMBRAKIS, THE MOST POWERFUL PUBLISHING FIGURE IN GREECE. KAPSIS WAS FRIENDLY WITH A NUMBER OF FORMER EMBASSY AND USIS OFFICERS HERE BUT IN RECENT YEARS HE AND HIS PAPER HAVE BEEN VIRULENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN. NEVERTHELESS, TA NEA HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION AND IS

THE MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER IN GREECE AND WE CANNOT IGNORE IT. THEREFORE, WE HOPE SOME RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT, PERHAPS INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, WILL TALK WITH KAPSIS, AT LEAST ON A BACKGROUND BASIS, IF HE COMES TO WASHINGTON BUT WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT AT THIS TIME FOR SPECIAL FAVOR OF PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT WE SHOULD TELL KAPSIS REGARDING HIS REQUEST.

MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, INTERVIEW, ANTIAMERICAN, EDITORS, THE PRESS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS07905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770309-0311
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770821/aaaaaqvv.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e681e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1478806
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK EDITOR'S REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: SOPN, US, GR, (CARTER, JIMMY), (KAPSIS, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e681e852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009